

CIPPENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 1983-4

MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASON

In our most successful year to date how else can an annual report be started than by paying tribute to the players who have won most of the team events open to them. The record of our first team speaks for itself:

Survival in the Halex National League
Buckinghamshire Premier Division Challenge Cup winners
Slough League champions
Maidenhead League champions
Zone finalists in the National Club Championship
Slough Summer League winners.

Other teams from the club have been equally successful:

Buckinghamshire Knock-Out Cup finalists
Slough Division Two champions
Dilger Cup winners
Third place in Slough Division One
Slough Summer League Division Three winners
Slough Summer League Division One runners-up.

Many players have also been successful in individual competitions. To all who have brought such glory to Cippenham this season, the club says well done!

MEMBERSHIP

Club membership fell again to twenty-three fully paid up members, although another six were registered in the leagues, including three in the National League. The decline was mostly due to the departure of some top First Division players to other local clubs. The club operated one team in the National League, six in the Slough League and one in Maidenhead. This represented a reduction of two Slough League teams and a significant difference from the days when we ran eleven teams in this competition.

Graham Trimming reached a milestone during the season when he played his 500th match for the club, while Peter Hillier and Frank Earis played their 350th and 250th respectively.

ADMINISTRATION

The Management Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting comprised Frank Earis (Chairman), Graham Trimming (Secretary), Peter Hillier (Treasurer), John Lewis, Ken Phillips, Rodney Potts, Dave Pountney and Jackie Thomas. Only two Management Committee meetings were held, there being six members present in July and seven in March. Jackie Thomas took on the role of Venue Liaison Officer and Ken Phillips was again responsible for the provision of various supplies to the home venue.

The Committee thanks the various team captains whose organisation of all teams was much improved.

Press coverage of the club's activities has been extensive with the National League team alone amassing 1217-column inches. For the third year running this has been described by the E.T.T.A. as the best in the country!

Two of our members, Graham Trimming as Chairman/Fixtures Secretary and Peter Hillier as Treasurer, also assisted in the administration of the Slough League.

Apart from National League matches, all the club's playing activities took place at St. Andrews Shared Church. Having some surplus capacity, we helped out the Burnham and Buzby clubs by allowing some of their teams to use our venue for home matches.

FINANCE

The attached statement of accounts shows that the club's financial position continues to improve although the balance of £1533 includes a £600 grant towards next season's National League expenses. Thus the working balance is more realistically stated as £933 of which £172 is attributable to the National League team and £761 to general funds. From this room hire for April is outstanding.

The general fund surplus for the year of £234 is welcome at a time when the club is building reserves for the capital investment that will be necessary if a move is made to a multi-table facility.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The club completed its third season in the Halex National League occupying seventh place out of eight in a very strong Third Division South. Only one match was won, this being the local home derby with Ashford who included three of our last season's squad, although another was awarded to us that we might well have won on the table. Five further matches were drawn providing entertaining and exciting spectacle.

Alec Watson made a tremendously successful return to the team after illness and injury. He was well supported by Ray Tilling but none of the other players met with much success. Frank Earis and Dave Pountney were this year joined by Steve Brindle, Basingstoke champion Clive Young and Bromley based Phil Bevan.

Home matches were presented in a professional manner utilising the superb facilities of the Elliman Hall at The Centre, Slough.

Thanks are due to our main sponsors, Slough Borough Council's Lottery Fund, who granted us £500 for this season, and have already contributed another £600 for next season.

The club wishes to thank all those who helped in any way: Frank Earis, Ron Eglin, Tony Emery, Jacquie Farwell, Peter Hillier, Brian Jerome, Gareth Lovell, Ken Phillips, Rodney Potts, Dave Pountney, Jackie Thomas, Graham Trimming, Steve Williams.

A fuller report appears separately.

TEAM COMPETITIONS

National Club Championships

Slough League champions, Calor, did not wish to enter so Cippenham was, for the fourth consecutive year, honoured to represent Slough in the Ormesby Cup. It turned out to be our best ever run as, after a first round bye, we beat strong teams from Aldershot and Bridgewater, to reach the last sixteen and defeat by the all powerful Omega club from Reading.

Buckinghamshire competitions

Cippenham entered three teams for the inaugural season of the Buckinghamshire club championships. Two teams were entered in the Premier Division Challenge Cup which, as its name implies, is open to teams from the top divisions of member leagues, and one in the Knock-Out Cup in which players who have played in the top division of any Bucks league in the current season are ineligible.

We truly established ourselves as Buckinghamshire's leading club. Our first team of Alec Watson, Dave Pountney and Frank Earis won the major event, while our second team lost to the winners in the semi-final. Our third team was also successful in reaching the final of the Knock-Out Cup, having won all their previous rounds 9-0.

Local leagues

Not only champions of Bucks, but also champions of both Slough and Maidenhead. The club's stated policy this season was to use our resources to win as many competitions as possible and restate our claim as the district's leading club and thereby justifying our status in the National League.

The first team squad of Frank Earis, Dave Pountney, Alec Watson, Steve Brindle, John Lewis and Colin Dyke are to be congratulated on their magnificent achievements. However they were not the only team from the club to taste success. The Rogues team of Malcolm Hicks, Bob Keeley, Gareth Lovell and Ken Phillips won both Division Two of the Slough League and the Dilger Cup knock-out competition, while Outlaws were remarkably consistent in finishing third in Division One. Vagabonds occupied a mid-table position in Division Two, Rascals found ninth place in Division Three but Bandits had a disastrous season and were left at the bottom of Division One.

Alec Watson won every set he played in the Maidenhead League and Dave Pountney, Frank Earis and Steve Brindle also featured very prominently in the averages. Frank also topped the official Slough League averages, followed by Dave Pountney in fourth place, Colin Dyke sixth and John Lewis eighth. In Division Two Malcolm Hicks came out on top with Rodney Potts third, Bob Keeley fifth, Gareth Lovell eighth and Ken Phillips ninth.

Summer League

Four teams were entered in the Slough Summer League and two finished up winning their divisions while another were runners-up. Graham Trimming, this year partnered by Rodney Potts, won Division One for the third year running while the second string of Martin King and Peter Hillier finished runners-up to them. Cippenham Delta, in the guise of Pam Spooner, Jeanne Gloster and Eve Franey, won Division Three while the Gamma team, despite losing only once, had to settle for third place in Division Two and missed out on the title by one set.

Martin King, Rodney Potts and Graham Trimming all tied for first place in the First Division averages, while Pam Spooner was unbeaten in the Third Division.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

Compared to the team performances, perhaps successes in individual competitions were a slight disappointment. Our three year reign as providers of the Mens Singles champion in the Slough Closed is over but we did manage four champions at this event. Jackie Thomas won the Ladies Doubles, Frank Earis the Veterans Singles, Daren Butler the Junior Singles and Malcolm Hicks the Division Two Singles.

However at the end of the season players from the club dominated the First Slough Masters Tournament with five of the eight qualifiers. Dave Pountney won the £30 first prize after defeating Peter Swinn in the final.

In the Bucks Closed we provided both finalists in the Veterans Singles - Alec Watson beat Frank Earis. Daren Butler won the Boys Doubles while Jackie Thomas was a runner-up in the Ladies Doubles.

Success also came the club's way in the Slough Hard Bat Tournament when Rodney Potts and Graham Trimming won the doubles event. Away from Cippenham activities, Dave Pountney ended the season in tremendous style by successfully defending his national Inland Revenue title.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND RANKINGS

County representation came the way of four Cippenham players this season. Dave Pountney achieved a lifetime ambition when twice representing Berkshire II while Steve Brindle was called up once for Bucks. Alec Watson, ranked one, and Frank Earis, at two, were the mainstays of the Bucks veterans team that ran up to Cheshire III in Division 3a of the National County Championships, gaining promotion.

Ten players represented Slough and one Maidenhead in inter-league competitions, although the club's dominance of the Slough mens first team seems to have been broken.

Ray Tilling, entirely through his results in the National League, became ranked at 130 on the England Lentec computer. Colin Dyke (58) and Alec Watson (74) appear on the veterans' list, although local knowledge would suggest that Alec should be in the top ten!

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Held on a Saturday in early May, the club championship attracted an entry of fourteen participants. A good enjoyable day's table tennis concluded with Dave Pountney taking the championship singles and, in harness with Frank Earis, the championship doubles. Frank won the Handicap Singles while the partnership of Colin Dyke and Pam Spooner took the Handicap Doubles.

HAYMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

During the year the club's management has been keeping a close watch on developments surrounding the old Haymill School which is due to be opened as a Youth and Community Centre. We have been verbally promised the use of the gymnasium, which measures 68ft. by 38ft. with a height of 18ft., for two evenings a week. However, the opening date is not yet decided and has been continuously delayed during the past twelve months.

The club hopes to use Haymill as a base for match play, practise and coaching, and looks forward to using the extensive facilities to build up the club's membership by the encouragement of new players.

The dimensions of the gymnasium support four fully screened match courts, five tables in open plan for tournaments and six for practise and coaching. The capital cost of equipping the venue to the high standards we seek is estimated as £3200, and a grant application for half of this has been submitted to the Sports Council Southern Region. A request for grant aid from Slough Borough Council's Lottery Fund has been turned down.